

VZCZCXRO9849
OO RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHSB #0255 0920903
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O 010903Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2658
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1861
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1984
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0557
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1261
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1618
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2040
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4471
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1111
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000255

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/01/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR CONFRONTS GONO ON RIGGING

REF: HARARE 254

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

[11](#). (C) The Ambassador has talked with Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono twice within the last 12 hours. He confronted Gono with information (Reftel) that a coterie of ZANU-PF officials was rigging the election for Mugabe. (We inadvertently omitted Gono's name in Reftel). Gono denied the allegation. The Ambassador pressed him, stating we had hard evidence. Further, the Ambassador said that the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) report demonstrated that Tsvangirai was well ahead of Mugabe. Gono responded that the ruling party would not rig, and would seek to work with Tsvangirai if he won.

[12](#). (C) COMMENT. Apart from the fact that Gono is obviously lying, he is a conduit to Mugabe and the inner circle who will all now know that the international community is aware of their plotting. END COMMENT.

MCGEE